

MEDICO-LEGAL AND MEDICO-ETHICAL.

PROSECUTION UNDER THE PHARMACY ACT.

A PROSECUTION was this week conducted in Glasgow at the instance of the Registrar under the Pharmacy Acts, and in the name of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, against a chemist and druggist's assistant for selling morphine, chloral hydrate, chloroform, belladonna liniment, prussic acid, arsenic, and strychnine, he not being a duly registered chemist and druggist within the meaning of the Act. The defence was that the respondent was assistant to Dr. A. G. Faulds, who was proprietor of the shop. The poisons had been dispensed in prescriptions written by the Assistant-Secretary to the Pharmaceutical Society, who presented them himself, and received the mixtures as prescribed. A sufficient quantity of poison to make a fatal dose had been ordered for each mixture. Dr. Faulds, who was the only witness called for the defence, said he had instructed his assistant never to dispense poisons in his absence; that when the prescriptions in question were dispensed he was in the shop in an apartment at the back, but able to see everything his assistant was doing; and that he had examined the prescriptions. The evidence against the assistant indicated that he had compounded the medicines without referring to or being superintended by anyone. The sheriff held that Dr. Faulds was not entitled to put an unregistered man into a shop to sell poisons; that even though the assistant had gone into the apartment where he was, and shown him the prescriptions, that was not equal to personal superintendence on Dr. Faulds's part, who, to fulfil the requirements of the Act, ought to have gone into the front shop and stood by while the medicines were being prepared. He therefore inflicted a penalty of £2 for each offence, or £12 in all, with £2 2s. of modified expenses. The assistant has intimated an intention to appeal from the sheriff's judgment.

MEDICAL PATIENTS AND MEDICAL FEES.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: Occasionally when perusing your deliverances on points of medical ethics I am gratified in recognising reminders of "my own thunder." Some years back, as convener of a largely authoritative medical convention, I drew up for publication a code of medical ethics, essentially based on "Percival's"; and having been trained by my father, a medical man, in the conventional usages that prevailed amongst men whose names have long been classical and revered, and having for above fifty years of active professional life been much associated with such men, as well in London as in the provinces, I would gladly learn from your opinion and better sources of information whether the relations of medical men, under the conditions I am now to relate, have undergone recent change.

Within the last few weeks a medical gentleman, surgeon to a large public hospital, a medical teacher and examiner, engaged in considerable practice, had occasion to pass through London. He was troubled with a petty ailment of the skin that was not satisfactorily amenable to his own treatment or to treatment that I have described in a special publication. I therefore recommended him to call while in London on a gentleman well known to me, and highly regarded as a specialist in diseases of the skin. It so chanced that this gentleman was out of town, and my provincial friend, having but a few hours at his command, called on another skin disease specialist, *sed non passibus æquis*, and presented his card, in the hope of getting a useful "tip." His London professional brother must be about the same age, of like professional status, and possibly as largely employed in public practice. This London specialist suggested trial of a very familiar medicament, and then named and pocketed as "his usual fee" two guineas. Now I know well that *tempora mutantur nos et mutamur in illis*, but I find it difficult to believe that the *camaraderie*, the generous sympathy which used to characterise—instinctively characterise—medical men, and of which I recall at this instant an innumerable series of illustrations, throughout a long vista of fifty years, can possibly be changing, so far as relates to London medical men of the present day. It certainly does not accord with my close personal knowledge of the usages of such men as Erasmus Wilson, Bence Jones, the elder Critchett, Wharton Jones, Toynbee, Pilcher, Brodie, Stanley, Laurence, W. Fergusson, Pollock, M. Duncan, etc. Neither does it accord with my knowledge of the usage out of London of such men as Abercrombie, Allison, W. Mackenzie, Bennett, Lizars, the Bagbys (father and son), Christison, Simpson, Kellier, Gairdner, etc., not to speak of the many eminent men of Dublin, Glasgow, and elsewhere with whom I have long held familiar intercourse. I send you the name of the specialist, whose exceptional action—as it seems to me—I have referred to, and to whom I mean to refer as opportunity offers, although I charitably hope that neither greed nor need, but simply not knowing any better, influenced him in action that contrasts with all I have learned of the dealings of one medical man with another in need of special skill.

UNQUALIFIED ASSISTANTS: CLUBS.

AN AUSTRALIAN PRACTITIONER.—We apprehend that our Australian correspondent has omitted to peruse the proceedings of the General Medical Council, as reported in our columns, otherwise he may have noted that the question of unqualified assistants has occupied their attention, and that their engagement by qualified practitioners has been severely criticised. What their ulterior views may be in relation thereto time will show.

With regard to the question of "clubs," and the miserable pittance paid to their medical officers, long and careful observation has led us to the conviction that the practitioners themselves are chiefly to blame therefor; indeed it is within our knowledge that, in several instances in which medical men have entered into a medical (signed) agreement not to take any new club for a less sum than 5s. per annum for each member, first one and then another have withdrawn therefrom with the view to accept such appointment at 4s. and 3s. Need we say any more?

VERIFY YOUR REFERENCES.

M.D.—Notwithstanding that our correspondent has assured himself by indisputable testimony of the truthfulness of his allegations against Mr. X., we would earnestly counsel him to abstain from all hostile action, and, when brought into unavoidable contact, to treat him with a reserved and dignified courtesy; moreover, failing any direct or indirect expression of regret on the part of Mr. X., to decline meeting or calling him in consultation, except in cases of pressing urgency in which life is involved; and, further, as a young practitioner desires to act honourably towards his professional brethren, we would advise him to pursue the even tenour of his way regardless of past annoyances—to which one and all are subject—and to look hopefully forward to the future.

CANCER CURERS.

JUSTICE writes: A brother practitioner, holding factory, health, and other public appointments, having become a convert to Count Mattle's system, and authorised by him to practise it, makes use of his opportunities when visiting mills, etc., to speak of his successes with the remedies, and draws attention to the system by leaving pamphlets on office desks, also by writing to the local press. Am I justified in declining to meet such a one in private consultation? Am I justified in declining to co-operate with such a one as a brother member of the staff of a local hospital?

. If the facts as stated above by our correspondent are correct, there can be no doubt that he would be quite justified in refusing to meet or co-operate with the practitioner described.

ADVERTISING CIRCULARS.

A. E. D.—We are advised that if the required evidence of practice by the lady doctor in question as an apothecary were forthcoming, proceedings might be taken against her by the Society of Apothecaries, under their Act; and the Society has been communicated with on the subject.

It is doubtful if proceedings would be successful under Sec. 40 of the Medical Act of 1858, having regard to the wording of the circular.

OBITUARY.

THOMAS RHODES ARMITAGE, M.D. LOND., M.R.C.S. ENG.

WE regret to announce the death of Thomas Rhodes Armitage, of Cambridge Square, Hyde Park, who died at Cashel on October 23rd from sudden failure of the heart, following serious injuries sustained by his horse falling with and rolling over him. The deceased was a younger brother of Mr. Edward Armitage, R.A., and was one of the seven sons of the late Mr. James Armitage, ironmaster, of Farnley, near Leeds. He was born at Tillgate, in Sussex, in 1824, received most of his early education in Germany, and became a medical student at King's College, where his great abilities attracted the attention and secured the friendship of Dr. Todd, whom he frequently assisted in practice, and into whose house in Brook Street he removed at Dr. Todd's decease. After leaving King's College he studied for some time at Paris and at Vienna, where he laid the foundation of a lifelong friendship with Professor Skoda; and on his return to London he commenced practice as a physician in Seymour Street. In a few years after his removal to Brook Street, his sight, which had never been good, failed so greatly that he was compelled to retire from his profession, in which his attainments had given promise of a brilliant future; from this time he devoted himself to the improvement of the condition of the indigent blind, whose miserable and neglected state in the metropolis and throughout the kingdom had long excited his commiseration. He reorganised the Indigent Blind Visiting Society, of 27, Red Lion Square, and laid down the principles which now govern its action in visiting blind people at their own homes, in stopping street begging, in teaching the blind to read from raised characters and to write, in inculcating thrift, and in bringing proper cases to the notice of other societies which taught handicrafts and in various ways assisted the blind to earn their own living. Subsequently, and in connection with the same Society, he founded a pension fund for the relief of those who were past work, and a Samaritan fund for the temporary assistance of the deserving. He was the very life of this Society, and was its most munificent benefactor. Impressed with the educa-

tional needs of the blind among the middle classes, Dr. Armitage became one of the originators of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, at Upper Norwood, and has been one of its most staunch supporters, his pecuniary gifts alone having amounted to nearly £40,000. He spared neither time nor trouble in promoting the work of the college; and it was largely by his help that it attained its present position. His leading idea was to render the education of the blind as much as possible like that of sighted persons, to teach the blind to be self-reliant, and to fit them for earning their bread by their own exertions. Music was found to be especially suited to their condition; and many pupils of the Normal College have attained high distinction as instrumentalists, while many others have obtained permanent salaried positions as tuners in large firms. Dr. Armitage was the chief introducer and promoter in this country of the Braille method of writing and printing and of maps with raised characters, and most of the improvements in the manufacture of these were originated or fostered by him. He visited most European countries, the United States, and recently Egypt, with a view of ascertaining personally the condition of the blind in each. He was an active member of the recent Royal Commission on the Education of the Blind and Deaf and Dumb, and he took part in international congresses on the subject both in Paris and Germany. Latterly, in addition to almost complete blindness, he became very deaf; but his infirmities diminished neither his benevolence nor his cheerfulness; and his interest in the good works in which he was engaged continued unabated to the last. His funeral was held at Noan on October 28th.

THOMAS FROST, M.R.C.S.ENG.

MR. THOMAS FROST has died at his residence, 5, Cambridge Street, Sheffield, after an illness of a few weeks' duration. He was a native of Hucknall Torkard, where his father had practised as a surgeon for many years. He became M.R.C.S.Eng. in 1852, and was shortly afterwards detailed for service in the Crimea, but for some reason was not sent out. During his forty years' residence in Sheffield, though he took no active part in political or municipal affairs, he was well known and much respected. He filled the post of assistant surgeon to the local volunteer corps; he took great interest in the work of friendly societies, and was one of the original fifty founders of the British United Order of Oddfellows. Mr. Thomas Frost, who was 63 years of age, was married twice. He leaves a widow, four daughters and a son.

ROBERT M'CORMICK, F.R.C.S., R.N.

WE regret to announce the death of the well known Arctic explorer and naturalist, Robert M'Cormick. He died on Tuesday morning at Hecla Villa, Wimbledon, in his 91st year. He was born on July 22nd, 1800, and was a pupil of Sir Astley Cooper at Guy's and St. Thomas's Hospitals. In 1822 he became a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and in 1844 an Honorary Fellow. He entered the navy in 1823, serving on board the flagship of the late Sir James H. Whitshed, at Portsmouth. He served three times on the West India Station, and accompanied Sir E. Parry in Her Majesty's ship *Hecla*, in his attempt to reach the North Pole. Sir Edward gave him the charge of the ornithological collection and of a lieutenant's watch. In 1836 Mr. M'Cormick joined Her Majesty's ship *Terror*, commissioned for the relief of the ice-bound whale-ships; and in 1839 Her Majesty's ship *Erebus*, employed with the *Terror* in the Antarctic expedition on a voyage for magnetic observation and discovery in the South Polar regions; and, after a perilous voyage of four years, with the onerous duties of geologist and zoologist, in addition to his medical duties as chief medical officer of the expedition, he was on his return the only officer (eligible for promotion) left unpromoted. From 1845 to 1848 he was surgeon of Her Majesty's yacht *William and Mary*, at Woolwich. He was one of the first, in 1847, to call the attention of the Admiralty to the fate of Sir John Franklin, and his long experience in Polar service enabled him to lay before the Board plans of search for the missing ships. But it was not until 1852 that his overtures were accepted, and he was sent out in the *North Star*, being given the command of an open boat, called the *Forlorn Hope*, manned by six volunteers. After a three weeks' exploration, amid tempestuous weather, he set at rest the moot question of the opening between Baring Bay and Jones's Sound.

In 1857 he was awarded the Arctic medal, and in 1876 the Greenwich Hospital pension, having been placed on the retired list in 1865. He was the author of several works, including *Boat Voyage up the Wellington Channel; Plans of Search in the Arctic*

Ocean; Geology of Tasmania, New Zealand, Antarctic Continent, and Isles of the South; Voyage of Discovery in the Arctic and Antarctic Seas; and Round the World, with an Open Boat Expedition, in the Forlorn Hope, in Search of Franklin, in two volumes—books which showed him to possess a literary faculty often conspicuously absent in men who have won fame in the Arctic Seas.

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES.

OXFORD.

ADMISSION OF WOMEN TO THE M.B. EXAMINATION.—The proposed statute for admitting women to the examination for the degree of Bachelor of Medicine (though not to the degree) was under discussion in Congregation on October 28th. Professor Case objected to leaving it to the judgment of the delegates of local examinations to decide what examination should be accepted as the equivalent of Responsions; he proposed that the permissible equivalents should be only those allowed by the statutes of the University. In other words, he objected to the substitution for women as medical students of modern languages in place of Greek and Latin. There was an extreme danger that the easiness of women's examinations would react upon those of the men, who would certainly demand admission to examinations on the same terms. He insisted upon the necessity of Greek and Latin as a preliminary to the study of medicine, both as involving a general education and also as required by the scientific terminology; and he warned the University, as he had done in discussing the preamble, that the delegates would be able *proprio motu* to give licences qualifying women to practise. On a division, Mr. Case's proposed amendment was rejected by a majority of one, the numbers being—for the amendment 33, against 34.

CAMBRIDGE.

SURGEON PARKE was present in the Senate House on October 23rd when Mr. Stanley was admitted to the honorary degree of LL.D. He received a warm greeting from the assembled graduates and undergraduates, which was renewed when Dr. Sandys, the Public Orator, referred to Stanley's "comites fortes et fideles."

DEGREES.—The following degrees were conferred at the same congregation:—M.D.: F. C. Holman Piggott, M.A., M.B., Emmanuel College (thesis, *The Physiology and Pathology of Bodily Heat*). M.B.: Michael George Foster, M.A., Trinity College (thesis, *Some Practical Points in the Climatic Treatment of Pulmonary Complaints*). Mr. Foster is the son of the Professor of Physiology.

PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.—At the meeting on Monday, October 27th, Arthur Gamgee, M.D., F.R.S., read a paper on *The Principle on which Fahrenheit constructed his Thermometrical Scale*.

SCHOLARSHIPS, ETC., IN SCIENCE.—Trinity: Major scholarships of £80 for two years, minor scholarships and exhibitions of £75 and £50 for two years, and sizarships of £80 for three years. Subjects: Those of the Natural Sciences Tripos, with general questions in English and an English essay. Examination begins December 9th. Apply to one of the tutors. Downing: Minor scholarships of £50 for one year. Subjects: Chemistry, Physics, Physiology, Comparative Anatomy, Botany, Human Anatomy. Examination begins July 8th, 1891. Apply to the Rev. J. C. Saunders, tutor.

EDINBURGH.

GENERAL COUNCIL.—The statutory half-yearly meeting of the General Council of the University of Edinburgh will be held in the Examination Hall this day (Friday). As far as the Medical Faculty is concerned, the most important business will be: 1. Regulations as to the retirement of assessors. 2. Report of the Committee appointed for the consideration of communications to be made to the Universities Commissioners on: (a) readjustment of courses of study qualifying for graduation; and (b) arrangements for teaching, both professorial and non-professorial. Under subdivision (a) a suggestion is put forward with regard to the propriety of elevating the degree of Master of Surgery to the level of that of Doctor of Medicine, and instituting a bachelorship in surgery parallel to that in medicine. This proposal the Committee thinks judicious. The suggestion that encouragement to graduate in arts should be given to medical candidates by means of options is also strongly approved of by the Committee. The Committee further urges that steps ought to be taken to enforce more rigidly than at present the conclusion of the general educational course before the student enters on the study of medicine, inasmuch as it is injurious to the thorough education of the student that he should be allowed to attend in a perfunctory way medical